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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 34 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below:

Please add new claims 35-38.

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method for the production of L-amino acids using coryneform bacteria comprising:

fermenting coryneform bacteria which produce a desired L-amino acid comprising an overexpressed polynucleotide sigC wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said overexpression is achieved by increasing the copy number of said polynucleotide or by operably linking said polynucleotide to a promoter.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, further comprising: isolating the L-amino acid.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the L amino acid is lysine.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A method for the production of L-amino acids using coryneform bacteria comprising:

fermenting coryneform bacteria which produce a desired L-amino acid comprising an overexpressed polynucleotide sigC wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide